BASTERIA

TIJDSCHRIFT VAN DE NEDERLANDSE MALACOLOGISCHE VERENIGING

VOL. 21, No. 1 en 2, PAG 1-28 1 - V - 1957

In memoriam J. J. Tesch

by

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JOHAN JACOB TESCH was born in Amsterdam on February 7, 1877. He studied biology at the universities of Leiden and Utrecht and took his doctor's degree in the latter town on May 11, 1906. His thesis, entitled „Systematisch overzicht van alle tot nu toe bekende Heteropoden" (Systematic survey of all the hitherto known Heteropods), was identical with the first part of his report on the Heteropoda of the Siboga Expedition, published in the same year. Earlier, in 1904, TESCH had reported upon the Thecosomata and Gymnosomata of the same expedition. These publications were based on a great general knowledge of these pelagic gastropods, which was partly acquired during a stay at the Naples Zoological Station from February to July 1904 and during a visit to the British Museum (Natural History) in London. The publication of these two reports qualified TESCH at once as an outstanding specialist of Pteropoda and Heteropoda.

From May 1906 to July 1907 TESCH was second assistant at the State Institute for Marine Research, and from August 1907 to March 1908 assistant at the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie at Leiden. Then he restarted his career as a zoologist for fishery research in which he was engaged until his retirement in 1942, except for an interval of three years and some months, from May 1915 to September 1918, during which he returned to the Leiden Museum as a curator.

During his first two periods as a marine zoologist he worked on several groups of animals living in the North Sea, mainly non-mollusks, but it appears from the list of his publications that he found time also for continuing his studies on Pteropoda and Heteropoda. The Leiden years from 1915 to 1918 were mainly devoted to Crustacea. The last period in which he served as a marine zoologist

left him no time for his favourite groups, but he returned to them after his retirement. Then he was appointed an Hon. scientific worker at the Leiden Museum in August 1943 and he used to work in the museum until about two years before his death on August 7, 1954, at The Hague. In this period he studied the huge material of pelagic gastropods collected by the Dana. Four reports published from 1946 to 1950 once more testify to TESCH's accurate methods, careful conclusions, and to his skill as an artist.

Though accurate systematic and anatomic studies were manifestly TESCH's main interest, his lively interest in general problems of marine biology appears from the semipopular book „Het leven der zee" (The life of the sea) published in 1920, and from several papers published in the journals „De Gids" and „Haagsch Maandblad".

The following is a, presumably complete, list of the malacological publications of J. J. TESCH. Papers on general subjects in which Mollusca are touched upon are not included. The references to short communications in the meetings of the Netherlands Zoological Society published, in Dutch, in the accounts of these meetings, are put between brackets.

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